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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 IO-10 OMB-01 SAJ-01 /066 W
---------- 030852
O R 111924Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3736
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4566

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, AUGUST 11 UP-DATE

REFS: (A) LISBON 4558, (B) LISBON 4565

SUMMARY: GEN PINTO SOARES HAS RESIGNED AS HEAD OF THE MILITARY ACADEMY AND AS REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBER, POINTING OUT THE DIVISIONS WITHIN THE AFM AND CRITICIZING THE ANTUNES MANIFESTO. SUPPORT FOR THE MANIFESTO HAS CONTINUED TO BUILD IN MILITARY UNITS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. VIOLENCE IN BRAGA IS CONTINUING AFTER BURNING OF COMMUNIST PARTY HEADQUARTERS. CATHOLICS ARE PLANNING LARGE MEETING IN FATIMA ON AUGUST 13. END SUMMARY

1. PINTO SOARES RESIGNS FROM REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL: GENERAL PINTO SOARES RESIGNED AUGUST 11 FROM POSITIONS AS DIRECTOR OF MILITARY ACADEMY AND MEMBER OF REVOLUTIONARY
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COUNCIL. IN LETTER REPRINTED IN AUGUST 11 AFTERNOON EDITION

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OF "REPUBLICA," PINTO SOARES EXPLAINED HIS DECISION TO RESIGN WHILE ATTACKING MELO ANTUNES DOCUMENT. PINTO SOARES SAID THAT HE HAD REACHED DECISION TO RESIGN POSITIONS WELL BEFORE MELO ANTUNES DOCUMENT SHOWN TO HIM ON EVE OF ITS PUBLICATION BY CAPT. VASCO LOURENCO FOR POSSIBLE SIGNATURE. HIS DECISION TO SEEK RELEASE FROM BOTH POSITIONS, HE EXPLAINED, RESULTED FROM SERIOUS MISGIVINGS HE HAD DEVELOPED RE ROLE OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) IN REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS. HE ASSERTED THAT HE HAD NOT SOUGHT POSITIONS IN FIRST PLACE, BUT OBEYED ORDERS WHEN HE WAS SELECTED TO SERVE.

2. SINCE ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITIES HE HAD NOTED DISTURBING TRENDS, INCLUDING:
-- FAILURE TO OBSERVE ESTABLISHED AFM PROCEDURES AND ORGANIZATION;
-- RADICALIZATION AND POLITICAL POSITIONS TAKEN WITHIN RC;
-- CONSTANT PRESSURES ON UNITS AND MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS;
-- INDIVIDUAL ATTITUDES HIGHLY INJURIOUS TO THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS.
GIVEN PROFOUND DOUBTS WHICH HE HAD DEVELOPED ABOUT COURSE OF REVOLUTION AND ROLE OF RC HE CONCLUDED THAT HE COULD NO LONGER IN GOOD CONSCIENCE EITHER PARTICIPATE IN TRAINING OF YOUNG OFFICERS OR PARTICIPATE IN RC DELIBERATIONS.

3. PINTO SOARES'S STRONGEST WORDS, HOWEVER, WERE RESERVED FOR MELO ANTUNES DOCUMENT. HE OBJECTED TO MANIFESTO ON GROUNDS OF BOTH PROCEDURE AND SUBSTANCE.
-- ON PROCEDURE: HE CHARGED THAT DOCUMENT WAS "DISLOYAL" AND "DIVISIONIST." INTERNAL PROCEDURES FOR ACHIEVING REFORM FROM WITHIN HAD NOT BEEN EXHAUSTED BY SIGNATORIES.
-- ON SUBSTANCE: HE CONSIDERED DOCUMENT TO BE DEMAGOGIC. HE WAS ESPECIALLY CRITICAL OF MELO ANTUNES, WHOM HE IN EFFECT ACCUSED OF BEING AN OPPORTUNIST OR WORSE. DOCUMENT CONCLUDED WITH APPEAL TO COMRADES OF ARMED FORCES TO MAINTAIN THEIR "LOYALTY" AND "HONESTY" WHICH WAS BEST GUARANTEE OF AFM UNITY.

4. SUPPORT FOR ANTUNES MANIFESTO: WE UNDERSTAND THAT AS OF LATE AFTERNOON AUGUST 11 LARGE SECTIONS OF THE AIR FORCE AND NAVY HAD INDICATED SUPPORT FOR THE MANIFESTO, ALTHOUGH NONE OF THIS HAS BEEN MADE PUBLIC OFFICIALLY. IN ADDITION TO UNITS MENTIONED REFTEL (B), THE TANCOS PARATROOPERS, THE CALDAS DE
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RAINHA INFANTRY UNIT, QUELUZ INFANTRY REGIMENT, SANTA MARGARIDA ARMOR SCHOOL, AND THE ARMY GARRISONS IN VISEU, GUARDA, CASTELO BRANCO, LEIRIA, AVEIRO, TOMAR, AND ANGOLA HAVE SUPPORTED THE DOCUMENT. THE SOUTHERN MILITARY REGION APPARENTLY IS STILL A QUESTION MARK, ALTHOUGH ITS COMMANDER WAS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL SIGNERS. THE PUBLIC SECURITY POLICE (PCP) AND ITS COMMANDANT HAVE COME OUT IN FAVOR OF THE MANIFESTO. AMADORA COMMANDO REGIMENT VOTED ON DOCUMENT THIS AFTERNOON (AUGUST 11). IN VIEW OF

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REGIMENT'S RECENT SUPPORT FOR ITS MODERATE COMMANDING OFFICER, COLONEL JAIME NEVES, WE ASSUME VOTE WAS IN FAVOR, BUT HAVE NOT YET GOT CONFIRMATION.

5. BRAGA VIOLENCE ESCALATES: AUGUST 11 VIOLENCE IN BRAGA CONTINUED TO ESCALATE FOLLOWING THE BURNING OF PCP HEAD-QUARTERS. WE CHECKED WITH BRAGA POLICE AT 6:00 P.M. LOCAL AND THEY TELL US WHILE A MOB IS CHASING 20 PCP MEMBERS, MARINES ARE ATTEMPTING TO RESTORE ORDER USING CONCUSSION GRENADES, APCS, AND TEAR GAS. THERE APPARENTLY HAVE BEEN SEVERAL WOUNDED TODAY BY GUNFIRE.

6. FATIMA MEETING: CATHOLIC SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT AN UNUSUAL DEMONSTRATION HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 13 AT THE FATIMA SHRINE. A SPECIAL EVENT HAS BEEN ORGANIZED FOR PORTUGUESE EMIGRANTS. CHURCH BELIEVES DEMONSTRATION IS BOUND TO HAVE IMPORTANT POLITICAL OVERTONES AND EXPECTS A HUGE TURNOUT. (AUGUST 15, OF COURSE, IS FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION.)
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